



## **BP Takes Lumps on Hill**

Illinois Lawmakers Assail Company Over Plan to Dump More Pollutants in Lake

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Executives from the oil company BP hit a bipartisan buzz saw on Capitol Hill on Tuesday, as Illinois law

Bashing BP, which recently secured an Indiana state permit to discharge more ammonia and suspended

The House appears set to approve a resolution Wednesday, sponsored in part by Rep. Rahm Emanuel

BP said Tuesday it has done everything possible to keep more pollution out of the lake. And BP executiv

Emanuel called the meeting "a clear, frank, unambiguous conversation" between BP and a bipartisan co

There were no Indiana lawmakers at the meeting. They generally have been reluctant to criticize BP, at

Republicans and Democrats from Illinois warned throughout the day that BP would lose any fight over G

"I told Mr. Malone that BP will not win this battle," said Rep. Mark Kirk (R-Ill.). "For my purposes, this bip

The company wants to overhaul its 118-year-old refinery, the nation's fourth-largest, to process heavier

When the company sought a new water permit for the Whiting refinery, state and federal regulators agreed

As a result, BP now will be allowed to dump an average of 1,584 pounds of ammonia and 4,925 pounds

The additional solids, tiny sludge particles that escape water treatment filters, are the maximum allowed

Ammonia promotes algae blooms that can kill fish, while suspended solids contain heavy metals such as

In advertisements and e-mails published during the past two weeks, BP has insisted the treated water it

BP officials said they plan to spend \$150 million to upgrade the refinery's water treatment plant. They no

"We're always looking for ways to minimize the environmental impact of our actions," said Scott Dean, a

Schakowsky said the controversy had rendered BP's pro-environment ad spending "wasted." Rep. Bobb

Illinois lawmakers have complained about the Indiana permit in several press releases and letters to the

Gov. Rod Blagojevich joined the list of angry politicians Tuesday with a statement threatening to sue Ind

Several Illinois lawmakers said Tuesday that protecting the Great Lakes, the world's largest source of fre

Durbin said increasing refinery capacity, and perhaps lowering gas prices in the process, would be "una

"It's your money or your life," Durbin said. Politically speaking, the controversy is a chance for Illinois law

The politics are less clear-cut in Indiana, as reflected by the position of Sen. Evan Bayh (D-Ind.) on the i

"We can't compromise Lake Michigan or any part of our environment for economic progress," said Jonat